

RQ-2

November 30, 2012

DAVE SYVERSON, TREASURER ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN PARTY P.O. BOX 64897 CHICAGO, IL 60664

Response Due Date 01/04/2013

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00005926

REFERENCE: OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT (09/01/2012 - 09/30/2012)

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action. Additional information is needed for the following 7 item(s):

- 1. A review of the reports filed by your committee indicates that your committee received one or more transfers from another Committee (see attached) which has not been disclosed on their report(s) of receipts and disbursements. Please clarify if the contribution(s) was received from the disclosed donor's federal account and amend your report(s) if necessary. (11 CFR §104.3(b))
- 2. Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "FEA 100% Federal: Direct Mail" which is categorized as Federal Election Activity and therefore, may require the disclosure of the candidate(s) this activity should be attributed to. Expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s).

Further, please be advised that public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity <u>and</u> that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity, would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate rather than on Schedule

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B for Line 30(b). Please clarify if this activity meets the definition of Federal Election Activity or if it contains express advocacy and amend your report to properly disclose this activity, if necessary.

- 3. Schedule B of your report discloses reimbursements to individuals for ""Reimbursement - Goodman Assoc. - Banners - Natl Convention," "Reimbursement - Home Depot - Phone Bank Equipment," "Reimbursement -Office Depot - Natl Convention Supplies," "Reimbursement - Office Furniture," "Reimbursement - Radio Shack - Phone Bank Equipment," "Reimbursement - Staples - OfficeSupplies," "Reimbursement - Walgreens Office supplies - Natl Convention," "Reimbursment - Alphagraphics - Natl Convention Credentials," "Reimbursment - Amazon.com - Gift Bag Materials," "Reimbursment - Gift Bag Materials - Natl Convention" and "Reimbursment - Kinkos - Sponsor Signs - Natl Convention." Please be advised that when itemizing reimbursements to individuals for goods or services, if the payment to the original vendor aggregates in \$200 or more in a calendar year, a memo entry including the name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and purpose of the original purchase must be provided. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule B, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. If itemization is not necessary, you must indicate so in an amendment to this report. (11 CFR §300.36(b), and Advisory Opinions 1992-1 and 1996-20, footnote 3)
- 4. Schedule B of your report discloses a reimbursement(s) to an individual(s) for apparent travel and subsistence advances in which the total amount reimbursed exceeds \$500. When the reimbursement amount to staff for travel and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by committee staff that make up the reimbursement may have to be itemized. For example, if the related payment(s) to any one vendor by the staff aggregates \$200 or more for the calendar year, the payment(s) must be itemized as a memo entry for that reimbursement. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and an adequate purpose. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule B, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. If itemization is not necessary for a particular reimbursement to staff in excess of \$500, you must clarify this in an amendment to this report. (11 CFR §300.36(b) and Advisory Opinion 1996-20, footnote 3)
- **5.** Schedule H4 of your report discloses a reimbursement(s) to an individual(s) for apparent travel and subsistence advances in which the total amount reimbursed exceeds \$500. When the reimbursement amount to staff for travel

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and subsistence advances exceeds \$500, the payments by committee staff that make up the reimbursement have to be itemized as memo entries <u>regardless of the amount</u>. Each memo entry must include the complete name and address of the original vendor, as well as the date, amount and an adequate purpose. Please amend your report to include the missing information and clearly identify on the Schedule H4, which reimbursement each memo entry relates to. (11 CFR §§104.10 and 104.17, and Advisory Opinion 1996-20, footnote 3)

6. Schedule A supporting Line 12 discloses a transfer(s)-in from the "Republican National Committee." Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) reflects a payment for "Yard Signs." Please be advised that a state or local party committee may pay for campaign materials (such as bumper stickers, pins and yard signs) that are distributed by volunteers in connection with activity on behalf of the party's nominees in a general election and voter drive activity on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Payments for this type of activity are exempt from the definition of a contribution or expenditure if certain conditions are met. The conditions are that no public advertising may be used, including distribution by direct mail (mailings by a commercial vendor or from commercial lists); all funds used for the activity must be permitted under the Act; none of the funds used may have been designated for a particular candidate; and finally, payments for the activity may not be made from transfers-in from the national committee to specifically fund the activity. For further guidance, please refer to 11 CFR §§100.87 and 100.147 and to the Campaign Guide for Party Committees.

Please clarify the nature of the transfer(s)-in and subsequent payments for the aforementioned disbursement(s). If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above, any portion of the expenditures made on behalf of specifically identified candidates must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23 or 30(b), 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate.

- 7. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule H4 of your report to clarify the following description: "Voter Contact Product." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).
- Your report disclosed certain categories of financial activity that have been reflected on the wrong lines of the Detailed Summary Page. For your information and consideration when preparing future filings, contributions to federal candidates and committees should be properly disclosed on a separate

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Schedule(s) B, supporting Line(s) 23 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions for each line when determining the proper categorization(s) for your next filing. (2 U.S.C § 434(b) and FORM 3X Instructions)

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1147.

Sincerely,

Maureen Benitz

Sr. Campaign Finance & Reviewing Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

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Excessive, Prohibited, and Impermissible Contributions ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN PARTY (C00005926)

Contribution Not Disclosed by Donor Committee

Contributor Name	Date	Amount	Report
Republican Main Street PAC	9/17/12	\$5,000.00	2012 October Monthly